

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 /076 W

-----126445 131301Z /44

P 131210Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8023

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 2225

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK

SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 174181 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 169971

1. BRITISH HICOMER MORGAN AND I SAW FONMIN CONTEH JULY 12. (CONTEH WHO HAD SPINAL TAP IN LONDON LAST WEEK FOR BACK PROBLEM IS "RESTING" PRIOR TO DEPARTURE JULY 14 FOR KHARTOUM WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS). CONTEH WELCOMED APPROACH, INDICATED SIERRA LEONE SUPPORTS ANGLO-AMERICAN SUPPORT, URGED CONTINUED STRONG UK-US EFFORTS AND SAID SIERRA LEONE WILL SUPPORT CALL FOR ROUND TABLE MEETING.

2. FOLLOWING MORGAN'S PRESENTATION OF AGREED TEXT, CONTEH SAID HE WISHED TO EXPRESS SIERRA LEONE'S SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO MORGAN FOR THE RECENT MURDER OF PENTECOSTAL MISSIONARIES IN RHODESIA. HE POINTED OUT THAT MISSIONARIES WERE APOLITICAL AND TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE AND THAT THEIR MURDER REPRESENTED THE KIND OF TRAGEDY THAT ALL NATIONS SHOULD WORK TO AVOID. HE WENT ON TO URGE THAT US-UK CONTINUE TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT FOR SETTLEMENT INDICATING THAT HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT TORY REACTION TO MASSACRE.

3. CONTEH POINTED OUT THAT SIERRA LEONE HAD READ INTO RECORD
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AT LIBREVILLE ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT OAU SUPPORT FOR PAT-RIOTIC FRONT WAS MILITARY PURPOSES ONLY. ACCORDING TO HIM COM AT KHARTOUM HAS ACCEPTED THIS INTERPRETATION AND, IN FACT, HAS GONE BEYOND IT IN RECOGNIZING ALSO THAT THERE ARE OTHER FACTIONS INVOLVED. HE EXPOUNDED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE THEME THAT WHILE THE OAU FOR EXPEDIENCY SUPPORTED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, ONLY THE PEOPLE OF

ZIMBABWE CAN DECIDE WHO WILL GOVERN THEM.

4. CONTEH SAID SIERRA LEONE WILL SUPPORT CALL FOR ROUND TABLE MEETING BUT LEFT BOTH MORGAN AND I CONFUSED ABOUT HIS INTERPRETATION OF PARTICIPANTS. HE SAID NEITHER SIERRA LEONE NOR ANY OTHER AFRICAN NATION WOULD ACCEPT SMITH'S PARTICIPATION IN MEETING. IN SPITE OF OUR QUESTIONS NEITHER MORGAN NOR I WERE CLEAR AS TO WHAT KIND OF MEETING HE ENVISAGED SINCE FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW SMITH IS OBVIOUSLY A PARTY IN THE PROBLEM.
LINEHAN

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Message Attributes

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